

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 1-17

Monday February 26th, 2018, 7 PM

SU 325

Voting Members: Kim Pizzella, Ian Beattie, Cassandra Saxton, Gustavo Sazo, Antonio Cajigas, Vincent Cajigas, Mike McCarthy, Aaron Golab, Kelly Rafferty, Faizaan Siddiqui, Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Gabby Latorre Rich Monroy, Michelle Wakim, Jessica Gagnon, Chad Schroeder, Chris Kaczegowicz, Madison Platow, Michael Katz, Abigail LaFontan, Kharl Reynado, Danielle Hartshorn, Nate Arioan, Tori Zane, Noah O'Connor, Casey Lambert (Chapter Chair)

Non-Voting Attendees: Dennis Pilipento, Janelle Swaby, Anna Napiorkowski

Guests: Arielle Mizrahi (Campus Organizer)

Meeting called to order by Kharl Reynado at 7:03 PM

- I. Introductions
- II. Campaign Updates
 - a. Bees - Abigail LaFontan
 - i. Sam Donahue is pitching Bee-Friendly City proposal tonight (2/26)
 - ii. Made connections with Mansfield Town Council and will be meeting with them in the coming weeks
 - iii. BFFA – a lot of schools interested in bees and pollinators, having volunteers come in to teach students about pollinators
 - iv. Garden – meeting with relevant organizations to get more volunteers for campaigns and compiling lists of plants for garden
 - b. Textbooks – Kharl Reynado
 - i. Working with the UConn Library
 - ii. OER week upcoming, March 2-9; table in Library Place on Wed, March 7 from 12-3pm
 - iii. Faculty presentation on Friday, March 9
 - c. NVP – Kharl Reynado
 - i. Meeting with Irma, USG President, on Feb. 28 to work with USG
 - ii. Kharl went to Student Learn Student Vote Summit Feb. 20-21 in Washington, D.C. – meeting with other people on University Senate Committee to work on furthering vote coalition.
 - d. Antibiotics – Tori Zane
 - i. Got endorsements from professors, reaching out to more in coming weeks.
 - e. Democracy – Noah O'Connor
 - i. 75 petitions from tables last week
 - ii. Two more tables this week (2/26 – 3/2)
 - iii. Prop making Friday (3/2) in office

- iv. Franklin Barrueco and Noah O'Connor working on Ranked Choice presentation
 - f. Hunger and Homelessness – Cassandra Saxton
 - i. Subcommittees formed – Charity Showcase (talent show), Cardboard Sleepout, Poverty Simulator, Food Insecurity
 - ii. Food security subcommittee working on Swipebank donations -providing dining hall entrance for students who need it.
 - iii. April 18th showcase (7-10 pm)
 - iv. Poverty simulator – March 21st, subcommittee meeting Thursday (3/1)
 - v. Abhishek – training and team building exercises
 - g. Zero Waste – Aaron Golab
 - i. Thank You Table for Dunkin Donuts, working to display at Dunkin Donuts
 - ii. Research on food waste, resource waste and energy waste is ongoing.
 - h. Rally – Chad Schroeder
 - i. Tomorrow, working on getting the word out
 - ii. Passed out 2000 flyers, 500 posters, class raps and tables were successful
 - iii. Voices of Women of Color involved, two other groups involved
- III. Funding Story – Kharl Reynado
 - a. Discussion - Why we have fee
 - i. Chad Schroeder – We speak for students
 - ii. Faizaan Siddiqui – effectively advocate for public interest better than private organizations
 - iii. Casey Lambert – independent to students
 - iv. Cassandra Saxton – Voted by student to be on campus, can choose to support us or not
 - v. Nate Arioan– Provide voice for a large body of people – UConn Storrs students
 - vi. Antonio – Better chance of succeeding by hiring professionals
 - b. Discussion – What is importance of being on a college campus
 - i. Noah O'Connor – people are becoming politicized at this time
 - ii. Abigail LaFontan – exposed to many demographics and many perspectives of other people
 - iii. Chad Schroeder – many students are progressive
 - iv. Aaron Golab – important to teach skills
 - c. Three Reasons why we're on college campus
 - i. Helps fulfill mission – civic education, not all learning is done in the classroom. Participation in political conversation
 - 1. Promotes conversation
 - 2. Actual education – class credit for internship
 - 3. Training through internships and volunteer activities – skills that are applicable to other careers and roles
 - ii. Further service mission of university
 - 1. Talking about many important issues that go beyond university into town, state, and national level
 - iii. Fit tradition of student control of student life

1. “Student funded, student run” we have control over what we want to learn and how we learn it
 2. We are accountable to students because of the student fee money
 3. We are students voice where they don’t have voices on issues, like student debt, on higher levels of government and administration.
- d. The purpose of talking about funding is so that we can answer why we have the waivable fee. Information is so that members can justify the fee and why the work that we do should be funded by students.
- e. Budget information – Four main categories of what we spend money on
- i. Staff – decided that the most effective use of our budget is to hire professionals that can work on our behalf. Campus organizers have knowledge of skills and trains students. Advocates can connect student chapters in order to maximize our impact
 - ii. National Dues – part of a network that shares resources, like staff reports. The issues that we work on aren’t only campus- or state-wide, so each chapters’ work benefits the work that other campus chapters are doing. Dues are proportional to the size of the states’ chapters.
 - iii. Resources - share resources as a network to increase efficiency and reduce costs. For example, we share lawyers with the rest of the network that allow us to share the cost and only use when we need an attorney. We are able to only pay for what we need.
 - iv. Operating costs – telephone costs, travel, supplies, SWAG
- IV. Treasurer Elections
- a. Casey – Commitments of position
 - i. Weekly meetings with Kim Miller, and our Faculty advisor.
 - ii. Two trainings – First training is last week before summer ends, and takes place off campus and is 2 days long. – mandatory for the treasurer. Second training second week of the spring semester, which is only one day, but also mandatory.
 - iii. Bi-weekly meetings – Triad
 - iv. Must use time effectively to get work done – invoices, purchase orders, etc.
 - v. Alex – Must be willing to push PIRG to provide documentation for certain payment requests for services, get campaign volunteers send requests in email to get documentation.
 - b. Elections will be next Monday – Ranked choice format

Meeting adjourned by Chair Casey Lambert at 7:47 pm
 Minutes written by Ian Beattie